

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /089 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:JFTEFFT

APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS

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P R 022346Z PEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025497

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNSC, US, CN, FR

SUBJECT:UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON COMOROS ISLANDS

REF: USUN 360

1. FRENCH EMBASSY MINISTER DE LA GORCE CALLED ON IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 2 TO DISCUSS REQUEST OF COMOROS ISLANDS FOR SC MEETING ON REFERENDUM ON ISLAND OF MAYOTTE. DE LA GORCE STATED THAT FRENCH HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MEETING BUT REJECT COMORIAN CHARGE THAT CONDUCTING REFERENDUM CONSTITUTES AGGRESSION. FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION OF DISPUTE UNDER ARTICLE 33 OF UN CHARTER IN HOPES OF RESOLVING DISPUTE BETWEEN PARTIES THROUGH PACIFIC MEANS. DE LA GORCE ALSO STATED THAT FRENCH ARE WILLING TO ADMIT OBSERVERS FROM INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS TO OBSERVE REFERENDUM ON  
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MAYOTTE WITHOUT RIGHT TO INTERVENE. IN RESPONSE TO LEWIS' QUERY AS TO WHETHER SUCH OBSERVATION OF REFERENDUM COULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE OF UNSYG, DE LA GORCE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE SINCE HE WAS UNINSTRUCTED.

2. LEWIS STRESSED THAT AS PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL DURING FEBRUARY US HAD OBLIGATION TO BE IMPARTIAL AND HAD NEED TO KNOW POSITION OF EACH PARTY. AT PRESENT WE DID NOT KNOW

POSITION OF COMOROS AND WONDERED IF FRENCH HAD INDICATION OF COMOROS' INTENTIONS. DE LA GORCE SAID HE HAD NEITHER GENERAL INDICATION OF COMORIAN DESIRES NOR IDEA IF THEY WOULD SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT OF REFERENDUM HE SAID THAT CHINESE HAD INDICATED TO FRENCH EMBASSY IN PEKING THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT COMORIAN CLAIM, BUT NO OTHER SC MEMBER NATION HAD AS YET STATED ITS POSITION.

3. LEWIS SAID THAT WE EXPECTED TO HAVE BETTER IDEA OF DESIRES OF SC MEMBERS AFTER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 2 IN NEW YORK.

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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